



“Civic leaders are catching on to what savvy businesses already understand: diversity and immigration are opportunities that can improve prosperity for all.”

- Rachel Steinhardt,  
Welcoming America



October 2013

## *Securing New Hampshire's Future: Welcoming Communities Create Economic Prosperity*

### The Impact of Immigrant Integration on Economic Development

Businesses owners seek opportunities in areas of the country where the local environment fosters success. Immigrants created 28% of all new firms in 2011, despite accounting for just 12.9% of the U.S. population.<sup>i</sup> The Fiscal Policy Institute found that small businesses owned by immigrants employed an estimated 4.7 million people in 2007 and generated more than \$776 billion annually.<sup>ii</sup> A key element to fostering economic development is to create a welcoming environment for newcomers.

A diverse population can contribute to a state's ability to compete in our increasingly global economy. Immigration research in Sweden discovered that a 10% increase in the immigrant population was linked to a 6% increase in bilateral trade with the immigrants' home country.<sup>iii</sup>

Immigrants are twice as likely to start businesses than native-born Americans. These entrepreneurs create jobs and opportunities for American workers as well as new arrivals. 40% of Fortune 500 companies were founded by an immigrant or child of an immigrant.<sup>iv</sup>

#### Companies started by immigrants include:

- |                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| ● Google                   | ● Ebay     |
| ● Levi Strauss & Co.       | ● Coors    |
| ● Procter and Gamble       | ● Paypal   |
| ● United Steel Corporation | ● Carnival |
| ● Dupont                   | ● LinkedIn |
| ● AT&T                     | ● Intel    |
| ● Sun Microsystems         |            |



## New Hampshire Benefits from its Growing Diversity

At 5.6% of the state's population, immigrants in New Hampshire contribute in many ways to the economic and cultural diversity of our state.<sup>v,vi</sup>

### *Immigrants are integral to New Hampshire's economy as students.*

- ❖ NH ranks 1<sup>st</sup> for the percentage of foreign-born adults with a 4-year college degree
- ❖ NH's 2,912 foreign students contributed \$96.4 million to the state's economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses for the 2011-2012 academic year

### *Immigrants are integral to New Hampshire's economy as workers, taxpayers, and consumers.*

- ❖ NH's foreign-born have 30% higher income than the national foreign-born average
- ❖ Latinos and Asians bring over \$900 million into NH's economy annually
- ❖ Immigrants comprised 6.5% of the state's workforce in 2011

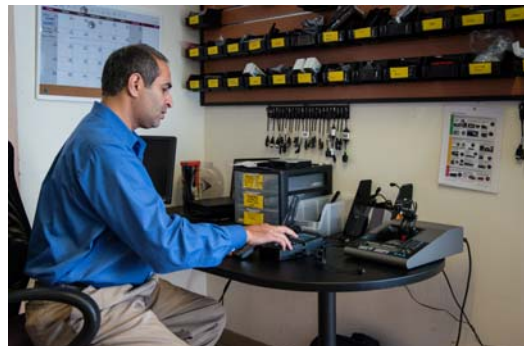
### *Immigrants are integral to New Hampshire's economy as business owners.*

- ❖ NH's 2,211 Asian-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$733.4 million, and employed 5,083 people in 2007
- ❖ The state's 1,441 Latino-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$189.4 million, and employed 905 people in 2007

### *Yesterday's Immigrants are Today's Success Stories*

New Hampshire's foreign born population was at its highest in 1950, when it was above the national average. Beginning in the 1800's, French Canadian, European, and other immigrants came to NH and built railroads and businesses, worked in the logging industry and in mills, and generated our state's infrastructure and economy. Many of New Hampshire's greatest leaders and businesspeople are immigrants.

vii, viii



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## State and Local Initiatives Can Drive Prosperity

*Immigrant Integration* is a process in which New Americans and the receiving community work together to strengthen economic mobility, education, and community wide planning.<sup>ix</sup> Immigrants, like all people, aspire to live in areas with potential for economic growth, safe and healthy neighborhoods, and quality schools. Active initiatives to enhance immigrant integration and create “welcoming” environments, across New England and beyond, attract new arrivals and drive economic growth.<sup>x</sup> Cities across the U.S. have started “welcoming” initiatives in response to the impact that immigrants have on economic development.

Sample cities with proclamations or plans for Immigrant Integration:

- 🌟 Dayton, OH
- 🌟 Chicago, IL
- 🌟 Boston, MA
- 🌟 East Providence, RI
- 🌟 Nashville, TN
- 🌟 St. Louis, MO
- 🌟 Louisville, KY
- 🌟 Lincoln, NB
- 🌟 Sterling Heights, MI
- 🌟 Dodge City, KA



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## How Do We Know If We Are Succeeding?

The process of integration is not always smooth. It requires mutual respect and accommodation as members of a community respond to each other’s needs and build a prosperous future together. Over time, and across generations, we can measure the extent to which individuals and communities achieve integration by developing and tracking a range of indicators:

- Socioeconomic disparities
  - ❖ Education
  - ❖ Employment
  - ❖ Wealth
- Language access and multi-lingualism
- Intermarriage
- Knowledge and acceptance of customs from other cultures
- Access to public and private institutions
  - ❖ Civic engagement
  - ❖ Every-day interactions across difference (v. isolation and segregation)
  - ❖ Participation in the democratic process

## New Hampshire is Taking Action

*Welcoming New Hampshire* is a community-wide initiative seeking to affirm New Hampshire as a welcoming place for all; city by city, town by town.

<http://www.welcomingnh.org/> Other statewide and local initiatives include:

- Manchester Task Force on Immigrant and Refugee Integration
- Gate City Health and Wellness Immigrant Integration Initiative (Nashua)
- Concord Multicultural Coalition
- Refugee Connections, a subcommittee of the City of Laconia Human Relations Committee
- NH Statewide Immigrant Integration Working Group: a partnership of organizations that hosted NH's 2012 Immigrant Integration Conference
- Endowment for Health: launching a new place-based immigrant integration initiative

Contact Janeth Orozco Sanchez at (603) 943-3283, [jorozco@miracoalition.org](mailto:jorozco@miracoalition.org) for information.

## Resources

Immigration and integration policy solutions (May 2012):

[http://opportunityagenda.org/files/field\\_file/immigrationpolicysolutions.pdf](http://opportunityagenda.org/files/field_file/immigrationpolicysolutions.pdf)

NH-based study of integration from perspective of Bhutanese young adults (August 2013):

[http://www.bhutanesecommunitynh.org/pdfs/ShapingFuture\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.bhutanesecommunitynh.org/pdfs/ShapingFuture_finalreport.pdf)

Report on refugee resettlement and role of local communities, including NH (Feb 2013):

[http://www.hias.org/uploaded/file/Resettlement\\_at\\_Risk.pdf](http://www.hias.org/uploaded/file/Resettlement_at_Risk.pdf)

Receiving Communities Toolkit (October 2011):

[http://www.welcomingamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Receiving-Communities-Toolkit\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.welcomingamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Receiving-Communities-Toolkit_FINAL.pdf)

All Immigration is Local (September 2011):

<http://www.welcomingamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/All-Immigration-is-Local.pdf>

Economic benefits to NH of fixing the immigration system (2013):

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/state-reports/The%20Economic%20Benefits%20of%20Fixing%20Our%20Broken%20Immigration%20System\\_New%20Hampshire.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/state-reports/The%20Economic%20Benefits%20of%20Fixing%20Our%20Broken%20Immigration%20System_New%20Hampshire.pdf)

## References

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.renewoureconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/openforbusiness.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.fiscalpolicy.org/immigrant-small-business-owners-FPI-20120614.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Richard Herman, powerpoint from NH Immigrant Integration conference (2012).

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.renewoureconomy.org/research/new-american-fortune-500/>

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/new-americans-new-hampshire>

<sup>vi</sup> [http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/IB\\_NH\\_Foreign-Born\\_08.pdf](http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/IB_NH_Foreign-Born_08.pdf)

<sup>vii</sup> [www.nhhistory.org/edu/support/slides/nhimmigrants.ppt](http://www.nhhistory.org/edu/support/slides/nhimmigrants.ppt)

<sup>viii</sup> [http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/IB\\_NH\\_Foreign-Born\\_08.pdf](http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/sites/carseyinstitute.unh.edu/files/publications/IB_NH_Foreign-Born_08.pdf)

<sup>ix</sup> <https://www.gcir.org/integration>

<sup>x</sup> <http://www.welcomingamerica.org/resources/cities/>

The photographs in this report by Becky Field, FieldWork Photos, are part of a larger, ongoing project, called "*We are Different - We are One*" - a photographic series celebrating the lives of foreign-born residents of New Hampshire and showing the strength, diversity and vitality that "New Americans" bring to NH communities. Her project illustrates that, while we are different in many ways, we all have the same desires to have safe homes; jobs to support our families; a bright future for our children; and freedom to practice our religious and cultural traditions. She has given several talks and exhibits using her many photographs. Becky studies photography at the NH Institute of Art. For more information, contact her at [FieldWorkPhotos@gmail.com](mailto:FieldWorkPhotos@gmail.com).